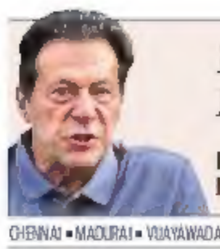
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SATURDAY • OCTOBER 22, 2022 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 24 • LATE CITY EDITION

Police use teargas to disperse Imran Khan's supporters protesting against the decision to disqualify him, in Islamabad on Friday | AFP

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianexpress twitter.com/newindianexpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress



## IMRAN KHAN BARRED FROM HOLDING OFFICE FOR 5 YEARS

**Pakistan's Election Commission disqualified the former PM for hiding proceeds from the sale of gifts he got from foreign leaders**

**EX-PM TO MOVE COURT AGAINST THE EC'S RULING**

The ruling came on a complaint filed in August against 70-year-old Khan. Asad Umar, secretary general of Khan's party, said the decision would be challenged in the Islamabad High Court. The ruling came days after Khan's party swept the crucial by-elections, winning six out of eight National Assembly seats and two out of three provincial assembly seats | P12

**MISUSED TOP POST, PROFITED FROM GIFTS**

- During his premiership between August 2018 and April 2022 Khan received expensive gifts from rich Arab rulers during official visits, which were deposited in the Toshakhana
- Later, he allegedly bought them at cheap prices and resold the same at a premium but hid it from the Election Commission

**$635,00**

**WORTH OF GIFTS IN STATE POSSESSION WERE ALLEGEDLY BOUGHT AND RESOLD**

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

# Go after hate speech suo motu, SC to cops

Don't wait for formal complaint, it tells DGPs in Delhi, UP, U'khand

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

APPALLED at the proliferation of hate speech, the Supreme Court on Friday directed the police chiefs of Delhi, Uttarakhand and UP to immediately take suo motu action against people irrespective of religion who make them without waiting for a formal complaint.

"We make it clear that any hesitation to act in accordance with this direction will be viewed as contempt of this court and appropriate action will be taken against the erring officers. We further make it clear that such action will be taken irrespective of the religion that the maker of the speech or the person who commit such act belongs to, so that the secular character of Bharat as is envisaged by the Preamble, is preserved and protected," the a bench of justices K M Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy said.

They also directed the police chiefs of the three states to file an action taken report regarding incidents of hate speech within their jurisdiction. "This is the 21st century. What have we reduced God to? Article 51 says we should have a scientific temper. Where have we reached? In the name of religion, it's tragic," the bench observed.

The order came in a petition filed by Shaheen Abdullah who had sought an independent probe into incidents of hate speech and hate crimes against Muslims in these three states. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Abdullah, said that irrespective of the existence of penal provisions and courts asking the police to take preventive action on hate speech, no action had been taken. He said he was forced to approach the court after an October 9 event in Delhi where hate speeches against Muslims were made.

"These statements are very disturbing for a country which professes to be a democracy and religion neutral," Justice Hrishikesh Roy said. The court asked Sibal if hate speeches were being made by Muslim too. "Are Muslim making hate speeches too? Both sides are actually," Justice Joseph said. "Anybody who makes such speeches should not be spared," Sibal responded

The bench said, "The Constitution of India envisages Bharat as a secular nation and fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and unity and the integrity of the country is the guiding principle... There cannot be fraternity unless members of community drawn from different religions or castes of the country are able to live in harmony."

**NEED TO PRESERVE CONSTITUTIONAL VALUES**

"We feel that this court is charged with the duty to protect the fundamental rights and also preserve the constitutional values and the secular democratic character of the nation and in particular, the rule of law," the division bench said in its written order

# Lobbying on as Kharge set to revamp Cong team

SHAHID FARIDI @ New Delhi

NEWLY-ELECTED Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge will formally take charge from Sonia Gandhi on October 26. His appointment will be followed by a complete revamp of organisational bodies, including the Congress Working Committee, frontal organisations, departments and cells.

Kharge will also choose the new team at AICC, including general secretaries and secretaries. Lobbying has started for the all-powerful post of AICC general secretary (organisation) which is currently held by K C Venugopal. Sources said this post may go to a leader from north India as the president comes from Karnataka, and Rahul Gandhi, who would continue to wield influence in party matters, represents Kerala in Parliament.

Rahul will take a two-day break from the Bharat Jodo Yatra to attend the event where Kharge will take charge.

Kharge is expected to convene an AICC plenary session before the end of this calendar year where the CWC elections will be held to choose 12 new members of the party's highest decision-making body. The CWC members will be elected by nearly 1,400 AICC members who will attend the plenary.

Sources said Kharge is likely to make some top-ranking appointments in the AICC before the party plenary in order to put together his team for the CWC elections. If the Gandhi family and Kharge allow a free and fair election to the CWC, a large number of sitting members could lose their place in the body. The CWC has 23 members, besides the Congress president. Twelve of them are elected while the rest are nominated to ensure representation to sections that lose out in elections.

Kharge will also play a crucial role in the election of state party presidents. The fate of the disciplinary panel set up to recommend action against three leaders from Rajasthan who prevented the state MLAs from meeting central observers also hangs in the balance.

Mallikarjun Kharge

**DMK suspends leader after tweet on Kharge**

Days after DMK spokesperson K S Radhakrishnan tweeted a picture of new Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and captioned it "another Manmohan Singh", the DMK on Friday suspended him from the party

## SC REJECTS PIL ON OPENING TAJ MAHAL'S 22 ROOMS

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Friday junked a plea filed by a BJP leader seeking to open 22 rooms on the Taj Mahal premises to check the presence of Hindu idols, terming it 'publicity interest litigation'.

A bench of justices M R Shah and M M Sundresh refused to interfere with the Allahabad High Court's May 12 order dismissing the plea filed by Rajnish Singh, the media in-charge of the BJP's Ayodhya unit. Singh argued there is no scientific evidence to support the theory that Taj Mahal was built by Emperor Shahjahan. The petitioner also prayed that a fact-finding committee be set up to study and publish the monument's 'real history'.

Singh had sought a directive from the court to the Archaeological Survey of India to open the locks of the upper and lower part of the monument and to remove the walls that were blocking the rooms.

However, the high court said the issues were not judicially determinable. It also pulled up the petitioner's lawyer for filing the Public Interest Litigation in a "casual" manner and said it could not pass an order under Article 226 in the matter. Singh then moved the Supreme Court, which has now rejected the petition.

# Pak out of terror finance watchdog's grey list

**On white list**

Pakistan needed 12 votes out of 39 to exit the grey list and move to white list. To avoid black list, it needed support of three countries. China, Turkey and Malaysia are its consistent supporters

**Pakistan must continue to take credible, verifiable, irreversible and sustained action against terrorism**

MEA spokesperson

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

IN a major relief for cash-strapped Pakistan, Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Friday took the terror-tainted country out of its inglorious 'grey list' (increased monitoring), four years after it was placed on it.

With the negativity gone, Islamabad will now be in a better position to seek financial aid from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the European Union to support its economy.

Announcing the decision after the two-day plenary in Paris on Friday, FATF president Raja Kumar said Pakistan's leadership showed a high-level of commitment to combat financial terrorism and money laundering.

Pakistan was put in the grey list in 2018 for its failure to check risk of money laundering, leading to terror financing. Reacting to the development, the Ministry of External Affairs said Pakistan has to further imporve its counter terror financing sytem. "Pakistan must continue to take credible, verfiable, irreversible and sustained action against terrorism and terrorist financing emanating from territories under its control," said MEA spokersperson Arindam Bagchi.

In other decisions, the FATF put Myanmar in the "high risk jurisdictions subject to a call for action", often referred to as the terror financing watchdog's black list. Iran and North Korea continue to be in the black list, while Russia has been barred from the future FATF projects.

## Family of 3 burn themselves alive in Bengaluru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN a horrific incident, a 60-year-old industrialist, his wife and their daughter committed suicide by setting themselves ablaze at their residence in HSR Layout police station limits around 5.45 am on Friday. The deceased are Santosh, his wife Omana (55) and their daughter Anusha (18).

Santosh was running a small tool manufacturing factory in Bommanahalli Industrial Area. Losses in business and failure to repay loans are believed to be the reasons behind the suicide.

The three set themselves afire after dousing themselves with kerosene. The incident came to light after neighbours noticed thick smoke billowing out of their house. The family from Kerala had come to Bengaluru a few years ago. They were residing on the 19th Main Road at 3rd Sector in HSR Layout.

## *Cricket in rain shadow, Windies blown away*

Zimbabwe and the Netherlands advanced to India's group as the first round of the T20 World Cup finished in Hobart on Thursday. A look at what it's in store...

Ireland's Paul Stirling (C) celebrates with teammates after defeating West Indies in the T20 World Cup at Bellerive Oval in Hobart on Friday | AFP

**WEST INDIES OUT**

India's group has become a tad easier to navigate as West Indies were eliminated from the World Cup. India will now face Zimbabwe, who beat Scotland on Friday. Their other matches are against Bangladesh, South Africa and Netherlands | P19

**TODAY'S MATCHES** Australia vs New Zealand 12.30pm; England vs Afghanistan 4.30pm

**SHOWERS THREAT TO WEEKEND MATCHES**

A persistent La Nina means increased risk of rainfall over eastern Australia, including on Sunday when India are scheduled to play Pakistan. The Bureau of Meteorology says there is 80% chance of rainfall in Melbourne

**GROUP 1**

Afghanistan, Australia, England, Ireland, New Zealand, Sri Lanka

**GROUP 2**

Bangladesh, India, The Netherlands, Pakistan, South Africa, Zimbabwe

Fresh to home
#NoShortcuts
Only Great Deals Delivered.
Grab great deals on the FreshToHome range that's antibiotic residue-free and preservative-free.
Chicken
(Skinless Curry Cut)
480g to 500g
CODE: 599C
₹1*
Minimum Order: ₹899
Sourced from dedicated farmers and fishermen | No Antibiotic Residue | No Preservatives*
Order online at: Freshtohome.com
90 Minute Delivery
Free Delivery* Code: FTH3
*No Class II preservatives in Ready-To-Cook. *T&C Apply. All prices are inclusive of taxes, except Ready To Cook. Offer is valid only for today and till stocks last. Offer is limited to 1 pack per order. Images are for creative visualisation only. FreshToHome is only a brand name or trade mark and does not represent its true nature.

EXPRESS READ

**Tentative timetable for II PU exams out**

Bengaluru: The tentative timetable for the upcoming second Pre-University Board examinations was released on Friday. Examinations will be held from March 10 to March 29. P2

**Call session to pass SC/ST quota bill: Siddu**

Raichur: Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah has suggested that the government should convene a two-day legislature session to pass the bill to increase the reservation for SC/STs, instead of an ordinance. P4

**14 injured in cracker mishap in Kalaburagi**

Kalaburagi: Fourteen people sustained burn injuries, four of whom are serious, when some people burst a pipe filled with gunpowder to celebrate the installation of Maragemma Devi statue at Honna Kiranagi on Friday.

# Close shave for students as Maharani's College lab building in Mysuru collapses

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

STUDENTS and staff members of the century-old Maharani's Arts and Science College for Women in Mysuru had a miraculous escape when the roof of the chemical lab in the heritage building came crashing down within minutes after they vacated the lab.

It was due to the presence of mind of the college principal D Ravi that a major tragedy was averted. Ravi was in his chamber around 9.45 am when the chemistry department head K K Padmanabha brought to his notice the water seepage in the roof and cracks developed in the walls.

Sensing danger, Ravi asked the staff to turn off the power supply and lock the door of the lab. Five minutes later, the entire lab building collapsed.

"When HoD Padmanabha called me, I went to the lab to inspect the damage around 10.25 am along with three other lecturers. I clicked pictures of the plaster which was peeling off from the ceiling on my cellphone and returned to my chamber. I immediately called MLA L Nagendra and requested him to take up repair works. But within minutes, the building collapsed," he said.

Ravi expressed his helplessness for failing to take up repair work of the heritage building when the damage was noticed earlier as they needed approval from the Heritage Committee. CONTINUED ON: P5

Police personnel inspect the site where the roof of a chemistry lab on the first floor of Maharani's Arts and Science College in Mysuru collapsed on Friday | VIJAYASHANKAR S